

# Oregon State University Student Veterans FAQ for Advisors

## **Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions**

**Veteran** – A person who has served in the United States Armed Forces. Another term used is “former armed services personnel”. The United States Armed Forces consist of the branches of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. A veteran could also have served in a National Guard unit.

**Soldier** – A person who is currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. Reserve and National Guard military personnel are considered soldiers as well.

**Active Duty** – Military members who are currently serving full-time in their military capacity. Members of a reserve component may be “called up” to serve on active duty.

**National Reserves/National Guard** – Members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and augment the active duty military forces when necessary. Reserve Units (in every branch of the military) are commanded at the federal level and the general purpose is to provide trained units in time of war or other national emergency. Army National Guard and Air National Guard are generally commanded at the state level by governors, and called to active duty in response to domestic emergencies and disasters.

**DD 214** – Department of Defense Form 214. “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty”. The DD 214 is used to claim VA Benefits/G.I. Bill benefits. Also can be used to claim benefits directly relating to OSU funds, such as exemption from the Advanced Tuition Deposit (ATD).

**DD NGB-22** – The National Guard discharge document that provides proof of serving in the Guard. This document shows the nature of the discharge, time served and other critical information a recruiter would need to process your enlistment.

**ACE** – American Council on Education. Refers to the transcript services for formal military course credits offered by all branches and occupations of the military. <http://www.acenet.edu/higher-education/topics/Pages/Transcript-Services.aspx>

**PTSD** – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. “A mental health disorder that can occur after the person has been through a trauma. A trauma is usually defined by an event that could have caused injury or death, thinking that your life or others’ lives are in danger, feeling afraid, or feeling that you have no control over what is happening. Symptoms may include reliving the event/triggers, flashbacks/nightmares, avoiding reminders of the event, feeling numb or depressed, or feeling keyed up (hyperarousal).” Some veterans experience symptoms of PTSD after being involved in combat/battle events and other war activities. From <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/fslist-ptsd-overview.asp>

Care and treatment options are available from essentially any therapist, mental health practitioner, or by searching the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers and Clinics list: <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1> CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) here on campus will also take appointments and make referrals as needed.

**MST** - Military Sexual Trauma – may include any sexual activity performed against one’s will, either through physical force, threats of negative consequences, implied promotion, promises of favored treatment, or sex without consent due

to intoxication, etc. Other events that may be categorized as MST may include: unwanted sexual contact, threatening, offensive remarks and unwelcome sexual advances. The [Veterans Health Administration](#) provides medical and mental health services to enrolled Veterans to report MST and has implemented mandatory screening for MST among all Veterans enrolled in the VHA program. For more information you can visit - <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp> & <http://invisiblewarmovie.com/>.

**ODVA** - Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. <http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx>

**VFSA** - Veterans and Family Student Association. OSU organization dedicated to providing veterans and their family members with a base of support and community along with other OSU students, faculty, and staff.

<http://groups.oregonstate.edu/vfsa/>

There is also a Veterans Lounge, a safe space for veterans and their families, located on the Memorial Union main floor.

## **Benefits**

***Where can I get a general overview of the types of VA Benefits used by OSU student veterans for higher education?***

<http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/start/index.php>

***What do I need to know about how benefits and the Degree Partnership Program (DPP) work together?***

<http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/multiple/index.php>

“Active Duty (Chapter 30), Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), Veteran-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606), Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) (Chapter 35), and Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31).

Oregon State University will certify OSU courses; other institution will certify their own courses.

Approval may be a copy of the student's schedule from the other school signed by an OSU advisor indicating that the courses will transfer to OSU and apply to the student's degree program. An email from the student's advisor to the veterans certifying official that includes a list of the approve courses is also acceptable.

The veterans certifying official must be provided with the advisor's approval for courses students are enrolled in at other institutions.

Once approval is received, OSU will send a *Parent School Letter* to the other institution, which permits the other institution to certify enrollment in those courses.”

**Note:** Veteran DPP students may have to work closely with the VA Certifying Officials, Cathy Walker or Angela Williamson and their academic advisors to determine which courses fulfill Bacc Core, and which fulfill major requirements.

***What do I need to know about benefits and E-campus or distance learning coursework?***

For the most part benefits don't change for E-campus students. Veterans who are collecting Chapter 33, Post 9/11 benefits who are only taking courses online for the term will receive a Housing Allowance that is half of the national average, which can be calculated at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm> . Students who either take a combination of E-campus and campus courses or all campus courses will be awarded the Housing Allowance for OSU, which is \$1059/month if attending full-time. If attending less than full-time, their Housing Allowance is adjusted accordingly.

E-campus can be a wonderful way for veteran students to get access to higher education. Check out what E-campus veteran students have to say about their [E-campus experience](#).

***Can benefits cover a veteran's tuition for a planned term(s) of study abroad?***

For veterans using the Chapter 33 Post 9/11 benefit, if the courses within the program will count towards the degree, the benefit will pay a broken out amount equal to the resident tuition directly to the home school sponsoring the program. It will also pay a housing stipend and a book/supplies stipend to the student. The benefit will **not** pay any study abroad fees or other fees that are directly due to the foreign institution **unless** the program itself is directly required for the degree.

For veterans using other Chapter benefits that pay tuition and fee amounts per term directly to the student, the student will also be able to use these funds for a study abroad program if they wish.

For more detailed questions regarding a planned study abroad session, please speak with Cathy Walker or Angela Williamson in the Registrar's Office.

## **Campus Contacts**

***Who should my student contact if there are Veterans related questions regarding Admission to the university?***

**Quinn Hale**

Customer Service Manager

Office of Admissions

104 Kerr Administration Building

Email address: [Quinn.Hale@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Quinn.Hale@oregonstate.edu)

Phone: (541)-737-9056

***Who should my student contact if they have general questions about how to adjust to the transition from military life to that of a student and how to take advantage of Veteran Services at Oregon State University?***

**Gus Bedwell**

Veteran Resources Coordinator

Veterans Workgroup Facilitator

Office of the Dean of Student Life

102 Kerr Administration Building

Room B102C

Corvallis OR 97331-2130

Email Address: [Gus.Bedwell@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Gus.Bedwell@oregonstate.edu)

Phone Number: (541) 737-7662

Fax Number: (541) 737-8123

***Who should my student contact with issues surrounding registration, benefits, and final authorization of student status?***

**Cathy Walker – OSU Veterans Certifying Official**

Phone Number: (541) 737-2007

Office of the Registrar

102 Kerr Administration Building

Corvallis, OR 97331-8519

Email Address: [Veterans@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Veterans@oregonstate.edu)

**Angela Williamson – OSU Veterans Certifying Official**

Phone Number: (541) 737-0593

**Who should my student contact if he/she would like to get involved in serving on a student task force for Veterans Affairs?**

**Julie Stewart**

Associated Students of Oregon State University

Director of Veterans' Affairs

Office: Snell 149

Phone: (541) 737-3559

Email: [Veteran.Affairs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Veteran.Affairs@oregonstate.edu)

**Who should my student contact if he/she would like to be connected to a veteran faculty or staff mentor on campus?**

**Veterans Connections Program** <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/dsapps/veteransconnection/apps/index.php>

## **Campus Resources for Success**

Academic Advising	<a href="http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=369">http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=369</a>
Academic Success Center	<a href="http://success.oregonstate.edu/">http://success.oregonstate.edu/</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://oregonstate.edu/career/">http://oregonstate.edu/career/</a>
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)	<a href="http://oregonstate.edu/counsel/">http://oregonstate.edu/counsel/</a>
Disability Access Services (DAS)	<a href="http://ds.oregonstate.edu/home/">http://ds.oregonstate.edu/home/</a>
Educational Opportunities Program (EOP)	<a href="http://oregonstate.edu/dept/eop/">http://oregonstate.edu/dept/eop/</a>
Student Health Services (SHS)	<a href="http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/">http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/</a>
Student Veterans of America	<a href="http://www.studentveterans.org/">http://www.studentveterans.org/</a>

## **Classroom Experience and OSU Registrar Policies and Regulations**

***What happens if a veteran student receives orders and gets called up for active duty in the middle of a term?***

There are several options:

Full withdrawal from all courses at any point during the term without academic or financial penalty. Tuition would be refunded in full.

Partial withdrawal from some (but not all) courses at any point during the term without academic or financial penalty. Students who have completed a significant portion of their course work may be eligible to receive the grades earned in courses up to that point in time and/or request incomplete grades according to existing guidelines. Tuition would be refunded for withdrawn courses.

No withdrawal from any courses. Students who have completed a significant portion of their course work may be eligible to a) receive the grade earned in courses up to that point in time and/or b) request incomplete grades according to existing guidelines. No tuition would be refunded.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:** When a requirement of a course has not been completed for reasons acceptable to the instructor and the rest of the academic work is passing, a report of I (incomplete) may be made and additional time granted. The I is only granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Decisions as to which option is best for the student will depend on the student's personal details, the time remaining in the term, the portion of coursework completed at the time of military activation, and understandings which can be reached with instructors.

Please contact the Office of the Registrar, (541) 737-4048, with any questions. \*\*\*Also, the student should contact Financial Aid to make sure all is in line for returning to coursework after deployment.

***What should faculty instructors and advisors know about veterans and their time commitments?***

Veterans may have to miss class for an appointment at a Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic or hospital, which if missed can take 1-4 months to reschedule or result in claims being denied.

It is the responsibility of the veteran to communicate with professors any accommodations required. All students, including veterans, have the same responsibility to complete coursework and university requirements.

## **Credit Articulation**

***Do veterans automatically receive credit for HHS 241 or PAC?***

Oregon State University will grant 1.00 quarter credit for the course HHS 241 Lifetime Fitness Lab. For HHS 241 credit to be granted, students must submit either the DD214 or an official ACE transcript. Credit will also be granted if one of the following military science courses has been completed successfully: Physical Fitness, Physical Education, or Physical Conditioning. To receive credit, please submit an official transcript from the institution.

***How are other military credits articulated?***

Oregon State University will assess and award block transfer credit (up to 45) upon review of the student's military record as recommended by the American Council on Education's (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services. Students may request evaluation of military credit by furnishing the Office of Admissions with an AARTS or SMART transcript. Transcripts may be obtained through their homepage at: ARMY (AARTS) (<http://aarts.army.mil/>), or NAVY (SMART) (<https://smart.navy.mil/smart/>). Transcripts from the US Coast Guard Institute (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/>) are also available for order. Additional informational links to other service pages can be found on the ACE website (<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/>). Choose "programs and services" from the top menu and then "military programs"

College Head Advisors should be consulted regarding using military credit(s) towards course requirements for a student's major program of study.

## **For General questions please refer to the OSU Veterans Information Website**

<http://oregonstate.edu/veterans/home/index.php>